



THE PROCLAMATION

"To Know Christ and Make Christ Known"



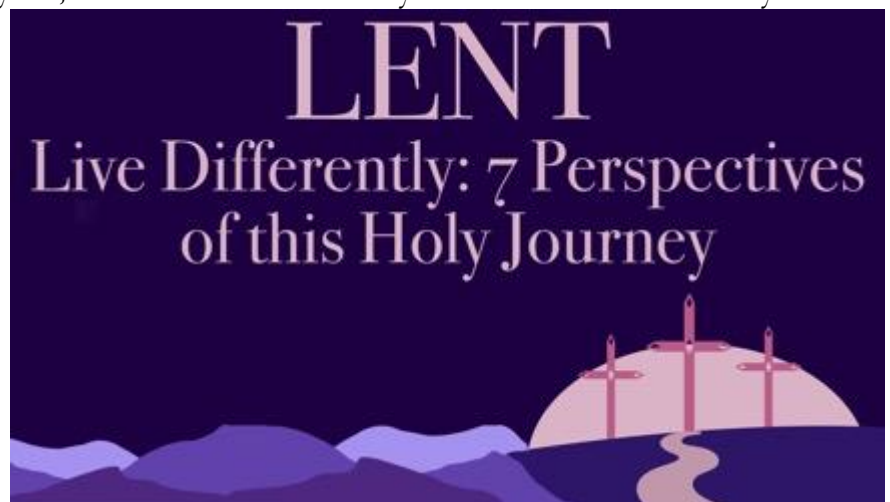
INVITED ON A LENTEN JOURNEY

REV. DR. JOHN A. HINKLE, JR., SENIOR PASTOR

Growing up as a child up in Dalton GA, First Presbyterian Church did not observe Ash Wednesday, so I never experienced going to the chancel and receiving ashes on my forehead. The first time I worshipped on Ash Wednesday was my sophomore year at Presbyterian College. The worship service was organized and led by the college chaplain, Greg Henley. As I have shared with you before, I was not overly concerned about my spiritual well-being during my first few years at college. In fact, in my first two years of college, I only went to church when I was back home in Dalton, where attendance was highly encouraged. That being said, it will not come as a surprise to anyone that the only reason I was there for this Ash Wednesday service was because of a young lady. It is not what you think. Marian Parker was a senior. She was from Cartersville, GA, and her father was the Executive Presbyter for Cherokee Presbytery. Marian also worked on the summer staff at Montreat.

Marian was a good friend, and she was worried about my soul—well, maybe not my soul, but she wanted me to reconnect with the church, and so she invited me to worship with her on Ash Wednesday night. She got me there because she promised to take me out to dinner afterward. I remember there were a few hundred people who gathered in the student union gym which was dimly lit with a table in the center. After the sermon was over, we were invited to come forward and receive our ashes. I am not sure what I was expecting, but what I experienced was life changing, for it was only the second time in my life when I realized I will not live forever. As it was my time to receive my ashes, my Old Testament professor, George Ramsey, stood in front of me. He placed the ashes on my head and then he whispered in my ear, "You are dust and to dust you shall return. Remember your baptism and be grateful." After the service was over, Marian took me to Whitford's for a cheese hamburger and she shared with me her love for Jesus and she wanted me to know how much Jesus loved me. Marian was killed in a car wreck just four months later. Every time I walk this Lenten journey, I think of Marian, and I am so very grateful she invited me to walk with her on this same path 35 years ago.

Follow Rev. Dr. Hinkle on Twitter @daltonboy1986
or email him at jhinkle@mborofpc.org





A HOLY LENT

Our preaching series during the season of Lent through Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is *Live Differently: 7 Perspectives of this Holy Journey*. We will explore how our lives as believers should be different than the world around us. We will answer the question of what it means to be counter cultural as we live our faith holding on to the love of Jesus.

March 5

2nd Sunday in Lent

“Probation”

Luke 4:1-13

Psalms 121

March 12

3rd Sunday in Lent

“Persecution”

Luke 13:31-35

Psalms 23

March 19

4th Sunday in Lent

“Penitence”

Luke 13:1-9

Psalms 95

March 26

5th Sunday in Lent

“Prodigious”

Luke 15:11-32

Psalms 130

WORSHIP AT FPC



STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2023/2024: TIME

BY: CHRIS & AMY JACKSON

During our Stewardship season this year on *TIME*, Amy and I asked each one of you to find time to prayerfully consider how to honor God as your provider through tithing. Stewardship season is a time to recognize everything we have is a gift from God and it is a time to be generous with those gifts. Community outreach, mission work in Nicaragua, First Presbyterian Preschool, our active and growing youth ministry, and our ability to gather on Sunday morning to worship are only possible because of your financial support of our mission, “To know Christ and make Christ known.” If you have already turned in your pledge card, thank you. If you have not yet had opportunity to do that, you may grab a pledge card at one of the sanctuary entrances and place it in the offering plate, or you can contact Charlotte or Pat in the church office and they will be glad to email or mail you one: charlotte@mborofpc.org or patcox@mborofpc.org.

We thank and appreciate this church family,
Chris and Amy Jackson



WELCOME! MEET J. T. & TONI LEATHERS



So how did a woman from Greensburg, PA (outside Pittsburgh) end up marrying a man from Rockvale? Easy - through a Christian PenPal organization. Toni and J.T. Leathers met, married in 1991, and Toni moved to Murfreesboro. J.T. was a classmate of our own Rev. Joyce

Merritt in Eagleville, so he's obviously not coming in with a blank slate! J.T. is a retired industrial electrician and Toni is a retired teacher, teaching everything from pre-school, special education, Title One and general education. She finished her professional career returning to preschool ("I missed the little ones," she said).

More interesting than his career as an electrician, however, is J.T.'s other career: While in high school, he volunteered at the Stones River Battlefield, and his interest grew. J.T. Leathers is one of the foremost authorities on 19th century artillery and weapons. Your correspondent asked Toni if her husband has appeared on Antiques Roadshow. "Oh, no, he doesn't do that," she said, but he (time to name-drop) is good friends with Rapheal Elledge of Savannah, TN, is a regular on the Roadshow. "He (Elledge) just sent J.T. some (artifacts) to work on." In fact, J.T. was at a special show in Las Vegas when this interview was conducted.

But how did the Leathers, who joined in December, end up at First Presbyterian Church? Toni explained that they belonged to a Methodist Church, but during the Pandemic shutdown, "We decided we needed something different, so we looked around." They visited our church, and it appealed to them. J.T. grew up Methodist, but Toni grew up as a Presbyterian, and, during the hymns, "I could hear my father singing. This is the place."

The Leathers have two grown children, Tabitha and David, and an Airedale terrier, Greta. They usually attend the 8:30 service but look forward to meeting the whole church.

NEW MEMBER INTERVIEWS BY: BILL PATTERSON

WELCOME! MEET MARCIE RICHMOND



Although not a native Tennessean, Marcie Richmond's roots go way back in Murfreesboro. Her parents were the late John and Mary Alice Richmond, long-time members of First Presbyterian Church. Mary Alice Richmond, as many know, was the first baby born at Rutherford Hospital.

Marcia Lee Richmond was born in Racine, Wisconsin, where her father worked for Johnson Wax. She moved to Tennessee to attend Vanderbilt University; however, she said "I thought I was going away to school, and my family followed." (John Richmond bought into Davidson Ladder Co. in Smyrna, and later bought-out the company with his son, Bill.)

Life carried her to Northern Virginia for nine years, and she and her daughter Courtney moved to Murfreesboro in 1979. She worked for the Tennessee Manufacturers Association in Nashville for several years, then became the executive director of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce for three years, then joined Davidson Ladder. When it sold, she went back to the Manufacturers Association. When Adams Place opened, she became their first employee, serving for 15 years as Director of Independent Living until retirement.

The Richmond family joined FPC in 1969, but Marcie had become Episcopalian when living away. However, she explained, "I got pulled in," a natural progression, and re-joined FPC in November. She is a board member and volunteer at Doors of Hope, an organization which helps to integrate women released from the prison system back into society.

Marcie's daughter, son-in-law John Davis, and three grandchildren live in Auburn, Alabama. She enjoys traveling and reading and has joined the Flower Guild here at church. We mention that Bill Richmond is her brother. Welcome, Marcie!



First Presbyterian Church Preschool Registration Time!

We have openings available in all our classes: 2-year-old, 3-year-old and 4-year-old. Our loving teachers provide a wonderful learning and growing environment for our littles. Please spread the word and help fill our school! Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center, or you may contact the Preschool to apply or schedule a tour at preschool@mborofpc.org. We are also looking for a loving co-teacher for our 4-year-old class. Thank You, Karen Winford, *Director of Preschool*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION: LUKE 6:48 BY REV. JOYCE MERRITT

You did it! Through your generous acts of Christian stewardship-giving of your time, talent and substance, our church has now provided the funds needed to build a house for a hard-working family. It was a pleasure to share a meal with Dominique and her three children at the cake auction where \$15,702 was received! There is just one small thing left to do: We need to build the house! The foundation is laid (literally and figuratively). Now we need to build on that foundation. There are 7 building dates- 3 Fridays and 4 Saturdays between March and June- for the construction to take place. We need 11 to 15 volunteers to work each of these days. You may choose to work a morning or afternoon shift, or both on any given day. All volunteers need to sign up for a date & time, as well as sign a waiver which will be available at a sign-up table in the Common Room (ages 16+ are welcome to the first 6 dates). You will have opportunities to sign up in person or online. Our children have been collecting funds to support this effort in their Sunday school classes. They are also decorating a playhouse that will be filled with pantry supplies for a housewarming gift. We're building a house! It's going to be great. Don't miss out. IN-PERSON sign up will be in the Common Room and the online sign-up can be found at [this link](#).

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The Session has decided the following as a general rule of thumb: In the event of inclement weather, the church will cancel activities according to county school cancellations. If possible, an email will be sent to the congregation and information placed on the website.

CONGRATULATIONS

DR. DAVID GRUBBS

on the establishment of
the Dr. David H. Grubbs
endowed political science
scholarship

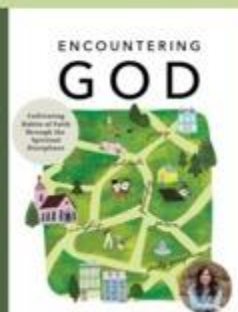
Scholarship created by Dr. George Vernardakis and
made its first award in Spring 2023.

SEND DONATIONS TO:
MTSU OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
BOX 109
MURFREESBORO, TN 37132
CHECKS TO: MTSU FOUNDATION
DR. DAVID GRUBBS SCHOLARSHIP ON MEMO LINE

Women's Bible Study

Encountering
God

By Kelly Minter
Wednesday Nights
Led By Judy Gritton



FIRST FRIDAY



FRIDAY, March 3

9am - 12pm

College St. Drive-thru

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH WITH FPC YOUTH

WED MAR 1	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
SUN MAR 5	HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
WED MAR 8	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
SUN MAR 12	HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
WED MAR 15	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
FRI MAR 17	6TH-8TH GRADE EVENT ADVENTURE!	5:00-9PM MEET @ FPC
SUN MAR 19	HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
TUE MAR 21	8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SESSION MEETING	5:45-7:45 @ FPC
WED MAR 22	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
SUN MAR 26	NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	SPRING BREAK



- March Sunday School Lesson
Theme:
OLD TESTAMENT

- 4th Grade Faith Milestone: RISK on March 4, 2023. Meet us AT Climb Murfreesboro at 10:00am for drop off and you may pick up your child at 12:00pm. Please go to Climb's website and complete the waiver form which MUST be completed PRIOR to the event. Please have your child bring a sack lunch.

SAVE THE DATES:

The children will be singing on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. Be sure to join us for choir each Wednesday as we work on our song!

EASTER EGG HUNT will be April 8th at 10:00am at the Gray house. Snacks will be provided, and the Easter Bunny will be there!

March Memory Verse
Hosanna! Blessed is he
who comes in the name of
the Lord! Blessed is the
King of Israel! **John 12:13**

MARCH 4TH 10AM-12 PM
4TH GRADE MILESTONE RISK
AT CLIMB MURFREESBORO CONTACT MEREDITH

Easter Egg Hunt
At the Gray House
Snacks and Easter Bunny will be there
April 8 at 10:00am

Middle School Adventure!
6th-8th Grade

March 17th 5:00-9PM

YOGA CLASS
March 3, 9am
In The Parlor
Nursery Provided

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Sabrina Donovan, Steve Elkins, Andy Peck, Lucas Webb |
| 2 | Sarah Gwinn, Michael Head, Beth Moscato, Will Shacklett |
| 4 | Sarah Kam |
| 5 | Kathy Clark, Elizabeth Jackson, Hendley Jackson, Mary Ellis Jackson, Glenn Lannom, Tracey Lannom |
| 6 | Jim Daniel, Grayson Gritton, Ed Zelan |
| 7 | Abby Lugos, Clay Pelot |
| 10 | Lucy Baughman, David Parente, Michael Parente |
| 11 | Preston Emore |
| 12 | Johnnie Leonard |
| 13 | Phoebe Lea |
| 14 | Shelby Hunton, Teri Windham |
| 15 | Casandra Ferrell |
| 16 | Eric Howser, Kevin McNulty |
| 17 | Kristen Pearson Varilek |
| 18 | Sandra Kilgore |
| 19 | Oliver Cowden |
| 22 | Gracie Brasch |
| 23 | Cora Lea, Katie Ratliff, Trey Willis, Tom Wolohon |
| 24 | Travis Emore |
| 25 | Tim Moore |
| 26 | Amanda Paddon |
| 27 | Baird Lane |
| 28 | Emma Claire Tisdal |
| 30 | Margie Haines, Roenella Hornsby, Jim Lemons, Lauren Rudd |
| 31 | Dot Daniel, Maria Gray, Farris Ralls, Alexx Wolohon |



Dale & Kay Boyd	March 1
Andrew & Julia Cowden	March 17
Terry and Bobbie Pierce	March 25
Jim and Rebecca Cross	March 30



Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for all your support through prayers, cards, prayer grams, food, and visits. Thanks to John, Bobby, Valerie, and the Men's Quartet for a very meaningful memory service for Glenn and the Care Team for the wonderful reception. This church family is amazing and much appreciated.

– Ellen Himebaugh & Family



Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
I wanted to thank you for your thoughtful prayers and cards you sent me after my sister's passing. It meant a lot to me to receive your kind support and love.

– Sincerely, Margie Haines



Dear Church Family,
Our family wants to express our thanks for all the wonderful support you have given us during our extremely difficult year while John was ill. You brought meals, did a beautiful reception following his memorial service, sent us hundreds of cards, notes, and phone calls, and have supported us even now as we grieve John's death. I could not have made it through our difficult path without your love and support. Thank you for allowing God to shine through you!

– Love, Beverly Pearson

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
210 N. Spring Street Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.mborofpc.org
Have an announcement for April?
Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or
call 893-3882 ext. 201 by March 17, 2023.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
MURFREESBORO, TN 37129
PERMIT #198



FPC STAFF

Phone: 615-893-3882
Fax: 615-962-9005
www.mborofpc.org

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. John A. Hinkle, Jr.
jhinkle@mborofpc.org

Associate Pastor of Family Ministries

Rev. Bobby Harding
bobby@mborofpc.org

Parish Associate

Rev. Joyce Merritt
joyce@mborofpc.org

Music Director

Jocelyn Fisher
jfisher@mborofpc.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Meredith Peck
meredith@mborofpc.org

Organist

Valerie Rains
vrains@comcast.net

Preschool Director

Karen Winford
preschool@mborofpc.org

Nursery Director

Celeste Brown
celesteegeo98@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Charlotte Lynn
charlotte@mborofpc.org

Financial Secretary

Pat Cox
patcox@mborofpc.org

Communications Coordinator

Alanna Diserens
communications@mborofpc.org

Volunteer Assistant

Nelson Smotherman

PT Facilities Coordinator

Joe Rich
jrich@mborofpc.org

Part Time Custodian

James Harper
jharper@mborofpc.org

**Church Family
Retreat**

APRIL 28-30, 2023

Registration: Opens Mar 5- Deadline Apr 5

Non-Refundable Deposit Due: Wed Apr 12

Balance Due Wed Apr 26

Join us for our 2023 Church Family Retreat: A retreat for EVERYONE

April 28-30 at NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center in Pleasantville, TN

Retreat begins with dinner at 6:00pm on Fri Apr 28

Retreat ends after lunch on Sun Apr 30

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SUN APR 5 [Click here to register.](#)

COST INFORMATION

- 1st Family Member: \$125
- 2nd Family Member: \$85
- 3rd Family Member: \$60
- 4th Family Member: \$30
- Max Family Cost: \$300

Cost includes two nights lodging, meals, and activities. Contact Bobby for info regarding financial assistance. It's available! DEPOSIT DUE by April 12

Please contact Bobby Harding (bobby@mborofpc.org) with questions.